



May 2007  
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# Tides *In Brief*

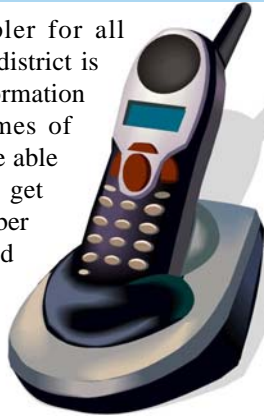
*Serving the Norfolk District*

May 2007

## Emergency Information Number

### District has new 201-NEWS number to dial

In order to make it simpler for all employees to find out if the district is open or closed or to get information on district status during times of emergency, employees will be able to dial 201-NEWS (6397) to get updated information. The number will ring into a prerecorded voice mail which will give employees current district status information.



The new 201-NEWS number will replace the old system of having employees call the PAO numbers during times of inclement weather or emergencies. Reminders of the number will be posted on the Command Information Display in the lobby and sent via e-mail when inclement weather is expected. The District will also continue to use local media outlets to get the word out on closures or delays.

## Educational Opportunities

### Civilian Education System to enhance professional development

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - During the Army's transformation, civilians have been asked to perform increasingly more tasks previously done by military personnel. To excel in these tasks, they need the training and education formerly reserved for Soldiers.

The Civilian Education System (CES) is slowly replacing existing programs, according to Jennifer Brennan, marketing specialist and public affairs officer at the Army Management Staff College (AMSC) at Fort Belvoir Va. She describes CES as a progressive and sequential civilian-leader development program.

"It provides enhanced leader development and education opportunities for Army civilians throughout their careers," she explained. "As of right now, attending CES courses is not a mandatory requirement, but the proposal is being addressed by G-3."

More information about the CES is available at [www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces](http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces).

#### What does CES mean to you?

CES could eventually fulfill continuing education requirements which some employees must earn as part of their career professional development.

All new Army interns, team leaders, supervisors and managers employed after Sept. 30, 2007 are required to attend the CES Foundation course.

Other courses in the CES are under consideration as mandatory classes for employees, but there are questions about how that would happen.

Courses are centrally funded, lack of unit funds shouldn't keep qualified candidates from attending.

## Office 'TIB-bits'

### From Security:

#### Common Access Card "Contractor Verification System" (CVS) is here

Department of Defense (DoD) contractors now have an online process to request an issue or reissue of a Common Access Card (CAC) through the Contractor Verification System (CVS). CVS provides a computer based process to verify eligibility, enter eligible contractors into the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and provides a more efficient and time reducing CAC issuance process. Department of the Army declared mandatory implementation of CVS as of March 30.

To receive a CAC, whether for the first time or to be reissued a CAC because of expiration, loss, etc., contractors will now contact one of the District's CVS Trusted Agents, who will guide them through the process. The District Trusted Agents (TA's) are Cheryl Drum and Cherie Kuntz.

The CVS TA's will create a website account and issue a USERID and password to the contractor. The contractor will then access the CVS website from any computer and complete the application. The contractor will then receive an email when the application has been accepted and when it is approved. Once approved, the CAC can be obtained from any workstation.

For more information contact Jim Gorka, District Security Manager at 201-7087.

### From the Library:

#### Reference Materials for Resumes available

Don't forget that the district library has a full assortment of reference material geared towards resume writing and tips for interviewing. This is especially useful for those who are looking at possibly pursuing a different career or just wanting to keep their resumes current.

'TIB-bits' Continued on Page 2

## District Tides

### Tides is coming soon!

District Tides returns in June. Look for stories about a dead whale taken to Craney Island, Lynnhaven Oysters, Captain John Smith Water trail buoy and much more!

## NSPS Update

### EEO converts to new Personnel System

Norfolk District's two Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office employees converted to the National Security Personnel System on April 15. They join the district's supervisors and managers who converted earlier in the year. The next group of employees scheduled to convert in October consists of approximately 20 people and includes all those who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, such as the district's Office of Counsel and all confidential employees. Until a court decision is rendered on the labor/management employee relations portion of NSPS, no covered bargaining unit employees will be converted.

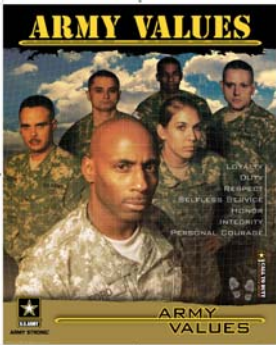
## Asian Pacific Observance

### Beach Board Member highlight at Observance

On May 16 the district will hold its annual Asian/Pacific American observance in the Waterfield Building. This year's guest speaker is Lyndon Remias, who is the first Asian American to ever be elected to the Virginia Beach, Va., School Board. Remias, who works for Amerigroup Corporation and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), also is the founding president of the Young Filipino-American Professionals of Hampton Roads. Remias will speak to employees in the multipurpose room as well as via a live intranet feed to district field offices.

## Army Values

### Army Values posters get a makeover



WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - New Army values posters are going up in offices and barracks worldwide.

The original Army values posters were first published nine years ago.

"This update is important because the Army Values posters serve as a visual reminder of our culture," said Kittie Messman, values project manager in the Army G-1's office.

The intent of the posters is to reemphasize and reinvigorate Army values, according to the Army.

"The Army values are the baseline, core and foundation of every Soldier," said Messman, herself a retired master sergeant. "They

define who they are, what they do, what they stand for, and drive their actions at home, work, in peace and during war."

The posters may be viewed and downloaded from the Army G-1's website <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/HR/ARMYVALUES.ASP>.

The Norfolk District is also creating Army Value Posters with special emphasis on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Once these posters are completed, they will be introduced through the Command Information Display, as well as in *Tides in Brief*.

## Speakers' Bureau

### Speakers' Bureau takes regulators to school

Two reported speaking engagements occurred since the last edition of *Tides in Brief*. The first occurred on April 6, with Cara Sydnor, Amy Bourne and Scharlene Floyd from regulatory talking to students at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va. The three regulators gave presentations on wetlands, the

Corps' jurisdiction and coordination as well as history of the regulatory program.

The second engagement involved Fredericksburg, Va. Regulatory Field office extraordinaire Hal Wiggins talked to 12-year-olds at Metz Middle School about Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Wiggins talked to two classes and demonstrated how to identify wetlands as well as discussing permitting processes.

### 'TIB-bits' continued From Safety:

#### Stay safe at home, too

Many injuries occur because of accidents off the job. Your safety 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week is important to everybody, so take your on-the-job safety training and apply it to your life outside of the work environment.

Here are some reminders for off the job safety:

- **Keep your home fire-safe.** Inspect regularly for fire hazards. Install smoke detectors in your home. Keep fire extinguishers in your home and vehicle, know how to use them and make sure they are charged. For every prevention and alert measure you install, make sure they are properly maintained. Hold regular family fire drills.
- **Prevent falls in your home.** Keep stairways and steps in good repair. Maintain adequate lighting along walkways and stairs. Never store things on the stairs and install non-slip surfaces in bathrooms.
- **Use ladders safely.** Make sure your ladder is in good repair. Don't stand on the top few rungs of a straight ladder or a stepladder. Keep your body close to the ladder and do not lean away from it. Never use a metal ladder for any electrical work, even changing a light bulb. Keep ladders away from all overhead power lines and electrical installations.
- **Avoid other hazards of electric shock.** Remember, moisture and electricity is a fatal mixture. Never handle electrical equipment with wet hands. Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter with electrical equipment anywhere moisture might be present.
- **Wear your seat belt** whenever you are traveling in a vehicle – even to the corner store.
- **Never drive** under the influence of alcohol, other drugs, or when you are exhausted or emotionally upset.
- **Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** off the job too. Using a lawnmower or chain saw calls for safety-toed footwear and ear protection. Using power or hand tools requires eye protection such as safety goggles.
- **Make sure any household cleaning products and pesticides** are correctly labeled, stored in their original containers and kept out of the reach of children and pets. Flammable liquids should be stored in a well-ventilated area away from any sources of ignition.



## Hurricane Prep

### District accomplishes goals during Hurricane Michele

The District Emergency Management team accomplished their goals during Hurricane Exercise Michele held April 24 -27. Team members deployed to both the Norfolk District Recovery Field Office-Advance (RFO-A) site in Richmond, Va., and the Continuity of Operations



Program (COOP) site in Suffolk, Va. The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate electronic communications connectivity (CEFMS, ENGLINK, INTERNET) at both sites; evaluate resource management function at both locations; define RFO-A functional responsibilities to align with the Incident Command System (ICS), and to evaluate the satellite phone and High Frequency Single Side Band (HFSSB) radio communications from the RFO-A.

According to members of the deployed team, the exercise was a great success and makes the district that much more prepared in the event a serious storm strikes the Commonwealth. Over the next couple of issues of *District Tides* and *Tides in Brief*, look for expanded hurricane preparedness coverage and tips and suggestions to get you ready for the next big storm.

## Community Outreach

### District takes display on the road

The district Public Affairs Office (PAO), along with help from GIS, updated the current main district display and created an additional history display to show on the road at various functions and activities around the Commonwealth. The first such function happened at the Virginia Beach HistoryFest 2007 held on Saturday, April 28, in Virginia Beach, Va.

Personnel from PAO, along with Project Management, Executive Office and Planning, stood by to discuss with festival goers the many projects and activities that the Norfolk District participates in throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. A steady stream of curious people ventured in to the District's tent located on the 24<sup>th</sup> street section of the Virginia Beach Boardwalk with many walking away with the thought "gee, I didn't know the Corps did that." Plans are in the works to take the display to other upcoming events. Stay tuned to the Command Information Monitor and future editions of *Tides in Brief* for more information on when and where the Display will be shown.

*Tides in Brief* is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of Army Regulation 360-1. It is published periodically for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army. Inquiries, comments and submissions can be forwarded by e-mail to [patrick.j.bloodgood@usace.army.mil](mailto:patrick.j.bloodgood@usace.army.mil)

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## Queen Elizabeth

### Governor requests district employee's presence for the Queen

CPAC Chief Paula Bradshaw will be in attendance for Queen Elizabeth's visit to the Commonwealth on May 3 for the Jamestown 400 celebration. Outside the walls of the Waterfield Building, Bradshaw is a very active member of the American Legion Auxiliary and serves as a board member on the American Legion Auxiliary's Virginia Girls State whose purpose, according to their Web site at [www.girlsstate-va.org](http://www.girlsstate-va.org), is to provide functional citizenship training for young women who are rising high school seniors, and afford them an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens and to inform them about the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, in order that they may understand and participate in the functioning of their government.

Virginia Governor Tim Kaine requested that members of the Virginia Girls State board be in attendance during the Queen's visit.

## Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day

### Age gap widens in district for a day

The average age of the Norfolk District team was significantly lowered on April 26 when employees were invited to participate in "Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day." Ten children and grandchildren of employees, ranging from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to high school students, visited this year and took part in a full day of activities arranged by CPAC.

The students were welcomed in the morning with breakfast provided by the Norfolk District Chapter of Federally Employed Women. They received a long-distance welcome from Col. Dionysios Anninos and met with Deputy District Engineer Jim Thomasson briefly, as well as sitting in on an NAD teleconference for a few minutes. Nancy Allen of Public Affairs then presented an "interactive" command briefing,



Adams II Captain Billy Simmons monitors the driving ability of one of the Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day participants.

which included the chance for several volunteers to don hats and costumes that represented different facets of the Corps history.

After a tour of the headquarters, Michelle Hamor talked to the group about GIS and gave the students a map to prepare them for their next activity, a tour of Norfolk Harbor on board the Survey Vessel

Adams II (after the important safety briefing). They all got a chance to pilot the vessel and see how the high-tech survey equipment worked on-board. Following lunch, which was provided by the Norfolk District Welfare Council, the young visitors had a tour of Fort Norfolk and then spent time with their parents and grandparents.

## NAD Small Business Conference

### Norfolk District hosts 2007 NAD Small Business Conference



Dean Hohman of NEIE, Inc. (left) presents a \$10,000 donation on behalf of his service-disabled, veteran-owned small business to Jeremy Feldbusch in support of the Wounded Warrior Project during the 2007 9th Annual NAD Small Business Conference.

More than 300 businesses attended the 2007 North Atlantic Division (NAD) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Business Conference, held April 25, at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside, in downtown Norfolk, Va. The conference was hosted by Norfolk District with participation from the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), Hampton Roads Post.

The NAD Commander, Brig. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, began the conference by providing attendees with an NAD regional overview of the civil and military construction opportunities available to prime and sub-contractors over the next several years. Hampton Roads Post SAME President, Capt. Joanne McCaffrey, discussed the mission, goals as well as current and future programs of her organization. Other information sessions included an update on the status of the Centers of Standardization program, followed by 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) project opportunities by each NAD district commander.

SAME Hampton Roads also facilitated contracting opportunities through matchmaking events with large and small businesses, especially those Small Disadvantaged, Women-Owned, Service-Disabled and HUBZONE companies.

The conference's keynote speaker was Army (Ret.) Sgt. Jeremy W. Feldbusch, spokesperson for the *Wounded Warrior Project* (WWP), a national non-profit advocacy group that raises awareness for the needs of injured service members. A

former Army Ranger, Sgt. Feldbusch became the first national spokesperson for the WWP, when he addressed Congress on the creation of traumatic injury insurance.

## Comings And Goings

### Look to July TIB

Because of time and personnel constraints, Comings and Goings will be updated in the July edition of *Tides in Brief*.

## District Retirements

### No retirements to report



See you in July!

## Mark Your Calendars

### Upcoming events over the next two months

May 10, Bake Sale in the Waterfield Building

May 16, Asian/Pacific American observance program

May 24, Bake Sale in the Waterfield Building

June 8, Parade of Sails-enjoy food and drinks during lunch as the ships travel up the Elizabeth River

June 14, Engineer's Day at the Great Bridge Bridge Reservation in Chesapeake, Va.

## Brain Teaser

### What am I?

Decapitate me and all becomes equal. Then truncate me and I become second. Cut me front and back and I become two less than I started.

Look for the answer in two weeks via e-mail and on the Command Information Display.

## Relay for Life

### District team forming to help in the fight against cancer

The district is forming a team to walk in the Relay For Life at Red Wing Park in Virginia Beach, Va. on Saturday, June 2, and Sunday, June 3. Relay for life gives people the power to help the American Cancer Society's progress toward a future where cancer doesn't take the lives of friends and family.

Employees who are interested in joining the district team should contact Henry Justice in Operations Branch.